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ANNOUCEMENT

THE THIRD YEAR OF THE INTERNATIONAL JEAN MONNET POLICY NETWORK "VALEUS" PROJECT

The year 2026 marks the third and final stage of the international Jean Monnet Policy Network (JMPN) project "ValEUs. Research & Education Network on Contestations to EU Foreign Policy", funded by the European Union through the Erasmus+ programme. Coordinated by the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder), Germany, the initiative brings together 20 partner universities from 17 countries across five continents. Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań is the sole Polish partner in the consortium.

The primary objective of the "ValEUs" network is to provide an in-depth analysis of the contemporary challenges facing the European Union's foreign policy and to examine the role of European values in the EU's external actions. Researchers involved in the project seek to assess the extent to which the European Union adheres to the principles and values that it promotes internationally. Particular attention is devoted to issues such as migration and asylum policies, EU enlargement, and the Union's responses to current international crises.

The activities undertaken within the project are interdisciplinary in nature and encompass research, teaching, and public outreach. Consortium members organise academic conferences, summer schools, workshops, and seminars, while also developing joint educational initiatives, including a large-scale online course accessible to participants from around the world. An important component of the project is the promotion of public debate and the formulation of recommendations for policymakers and civil society actors.

In an era of profound international transformation, the European Union faces numerous challenges that affect its capacity to promote democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and peace. The growing influence of illiberal actors, armed conflicts, geopolitical tensions, migration pressures, climate change, and the energy transition all raise important questions about the

effectiveness of the EU's foreign policy instruments. The "ValEUs" project seeks to identify and analyse these challenges, investigate the sources of contestation surrounding European values, and explore alternative policy approaches and future strategies.

A further dimension of the initiative is its reflection on the role of universities in a rapidly changing world. The network promotes the vision of higher education institutions as socially responsible actors that actively contribute to public debate and support the development of democratic societies.

After more than two years of implementation, the project has already generated substantial academic and educational outcomes. The final year focuses on disseminating research findings, strengthening cooperation among partner institutions, and ensuring the long-term sustainability and impact of the network's achievements beyond the project's formal conclusion.

The project team at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań consists of Professor Beata Przybylska-Maszner, Professor Paulina Pospieszna, Dr Jakub Jakubowski, and Professor Jarosław Jańczak, who serves as the project coordinator at the AMU.

Further information about the project and its activities is available at https://valeus.eu

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